

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-55 were presented in the original patent application. Claims 1-7, 13, 21-25, 30-34, 40, and 42-55 have been canceled. Claims 8-12, 14-20, 26-29, 35-39, and 41 remain pending. Claims 8, 10, 14, 26, 28, and 35-38 have been amended. No new matter has been added to the amended claims. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Drawings

The office action objected to Figures 1, 5, 7, and 12 for minor informalities. These informalities have been corrected as suggested by the office action. Corrected drawings are submitted herewith.

Objections to the Specification

The office action objected to minor informalities in the specification. These informalities have been corrected as suggested by the office action.

Objections to the Claims

The office action objected to claims 7, 10, 21, 28, 30-33, and 35-38 because of various informalities. Claims 7, 21, and 30-33 have been canceled.

The informalities in claims 10, 28, and 35-38 have been corrected as suggested in the office action.

Rejections of Claim 4 for Indefiniteness

The office action rejected claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claim 4 has been canceled in the present amendment.

Rejections of the Claims Based on Prior Art

The office action rejected claims 1-5, 7, 42-43, 45, 49-50, and 52 as being anticipated by Japanese patent 09,326,783 to Yukie. The office action also rejected several of the other claims as being obvious over the Yukie patent.

As noted above, claims 1-7, 13, 21-25, 30-34, 40, and 42-55 have been canceled. Claims 8, 14, 26, and 28 have been amended.

A. Claims 8, 26, and 41

With respect to the inventions recited in claims 8, 26 and 41, the apparatus has packet information storage that stores identifier information appended to received packets. When the line receiver unit receives a packet from any one of the plurality of physical lines, it confirms whether the identifier information of the received packet has been stored in the packet information storage. If identifier information having the same contents as that of the received packet has not been stored in the packet information storage, the line receiver unit recognizes that it has never received a same packet as the received packet and stores the identifier information of the received packet in the packet information storage.

When identifier information having the same contents as that of the received packet has been stored in the packet information storage, the line receiver unit recognizes that it has already received a same packet as the received packet and abandons it.

With respect to claims 8, 26 and 41, Yukie (JP-09,326,783) does not teach or suggest that the data circuit change control unit includes a packet information storage for storing therein identifier information appended to received packets. It would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skilled in the art to provide the recited packet information storage.

In Yukie, the information processing section 101 only receives the notice of the presence of the error in active data and outputs the change control signal S25 to the changeover section 223, which causes the section 223 to select the standby line for the reception. The section 101 just decides whether the error in active data is detected. The information processing section 101 does not have storage that holds identifier information of the received data and confirms whether it has already received the same data.

Therefore, the Yukie patent does not anticipate or render obvious claims 8, 26, or 41.

B. Claims 14 and 28

With respect to the inventions recited in claims 14 and 28, the apparatus includes the plurality of mode flags, each of which associates with one of the plurality of physical lines and stores either a primary mode or a secondary mode therein, respectively. When one of the

plurality of line receivers receives a packet from one of the plurality of physical lines, the line receiver confirms whether the mode flag corresponding to it has stored the primary mode. If the mode flag has stored the primary mode therein, the line receiver further processes the received packet. And, if the mode flag has stored the secondary mode therein, the line receiver abandons the received packet.

As mentioned in the office action for claims 14 and 28, Yukie does not teach or suggest that the data circuit change control unit includes a plurality of mode flags that respectively store either a primary mode or a secondary mode. Bare (US Patent 6,456,597) does not teach or suggest that the switch includes a plurality of mode flags that respectively store either a primary mode or a secondary mode.

The office action indicated that col. 14, lines 54-64 of Bare teach the plurality of mode flags. However, that portion of Bare only describes that some bits of the reserved bytes 408 included in packet header are allocated as flags associated with some query or in a protocol. Bare does not describe any switch having such the plurality of mode flags. In addition, none of the other references cited in the office action teach or suggest an apparatus having the recited plurality of mode flags.

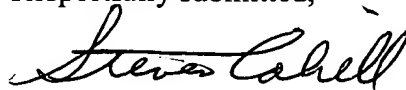
Therefore, the Yukie and Bare patents by themselves or in combination with other cited references do not teach or suggest the features of claims 14 or 28.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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Appl. No. 09/642,612

Amdt. dated 5/17/2004

Reply to Office Action of December 18, 2003

PATENT

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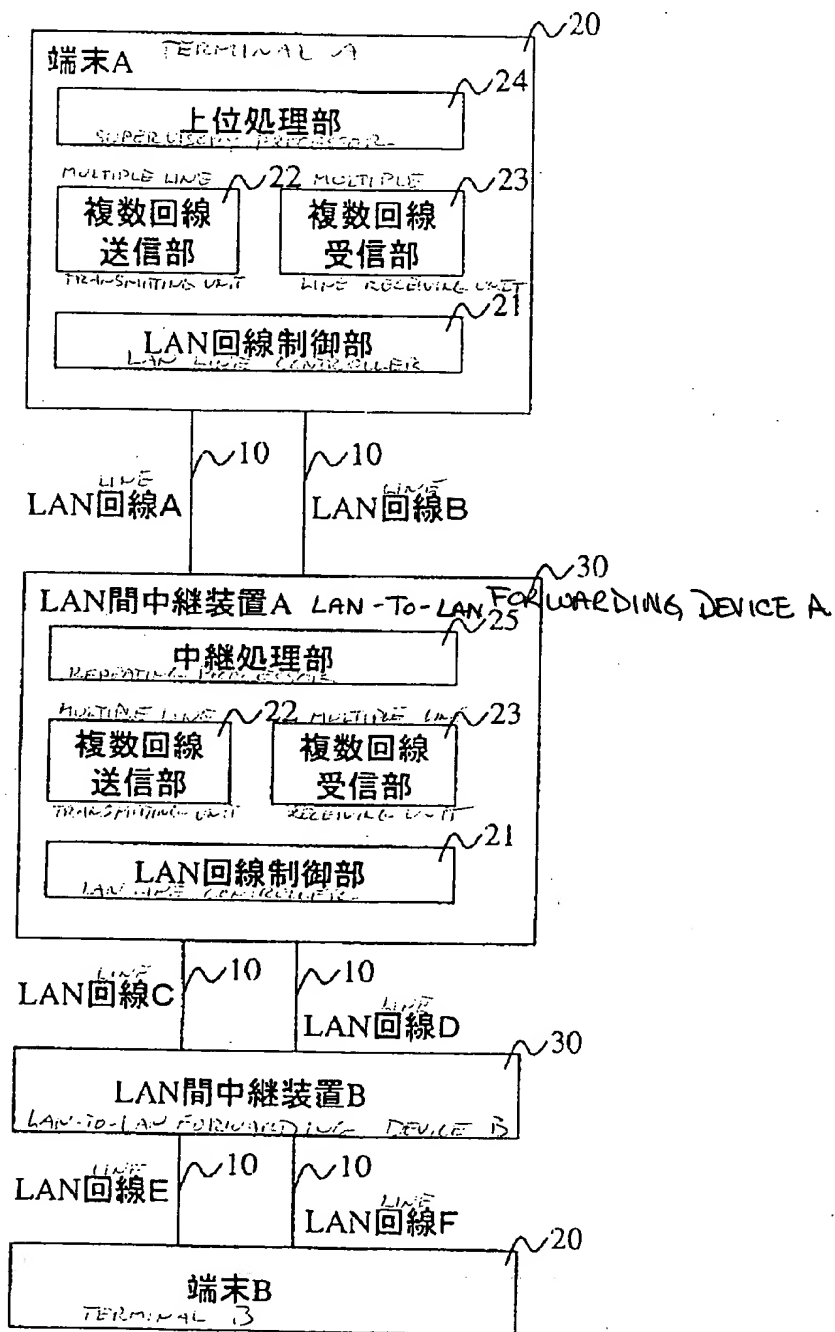
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【書類名】 図面

【図 1】

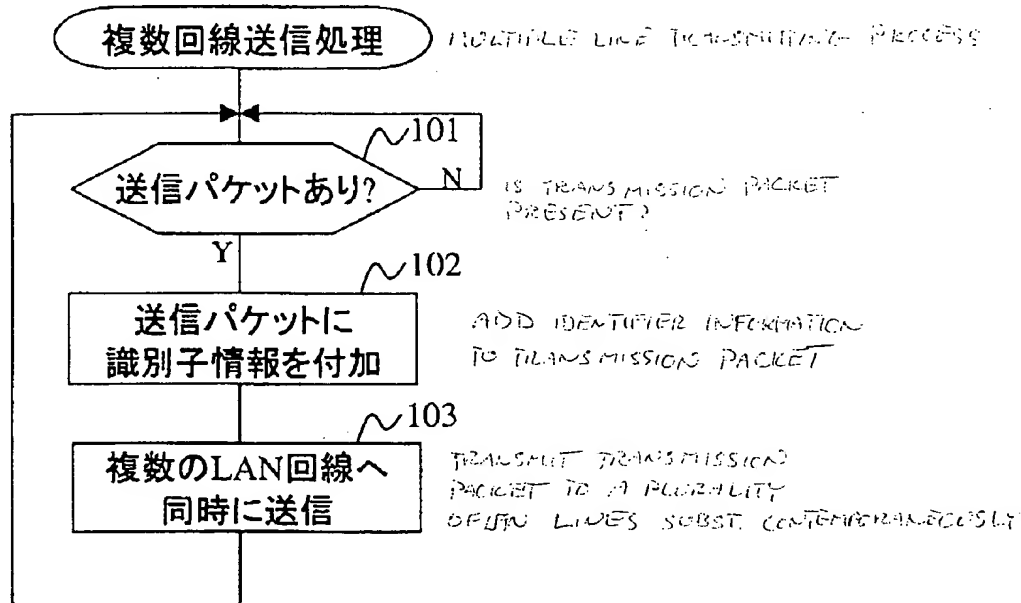
【図1 LAN間中継装置構成、端末構成、およびネットワーク構成例】



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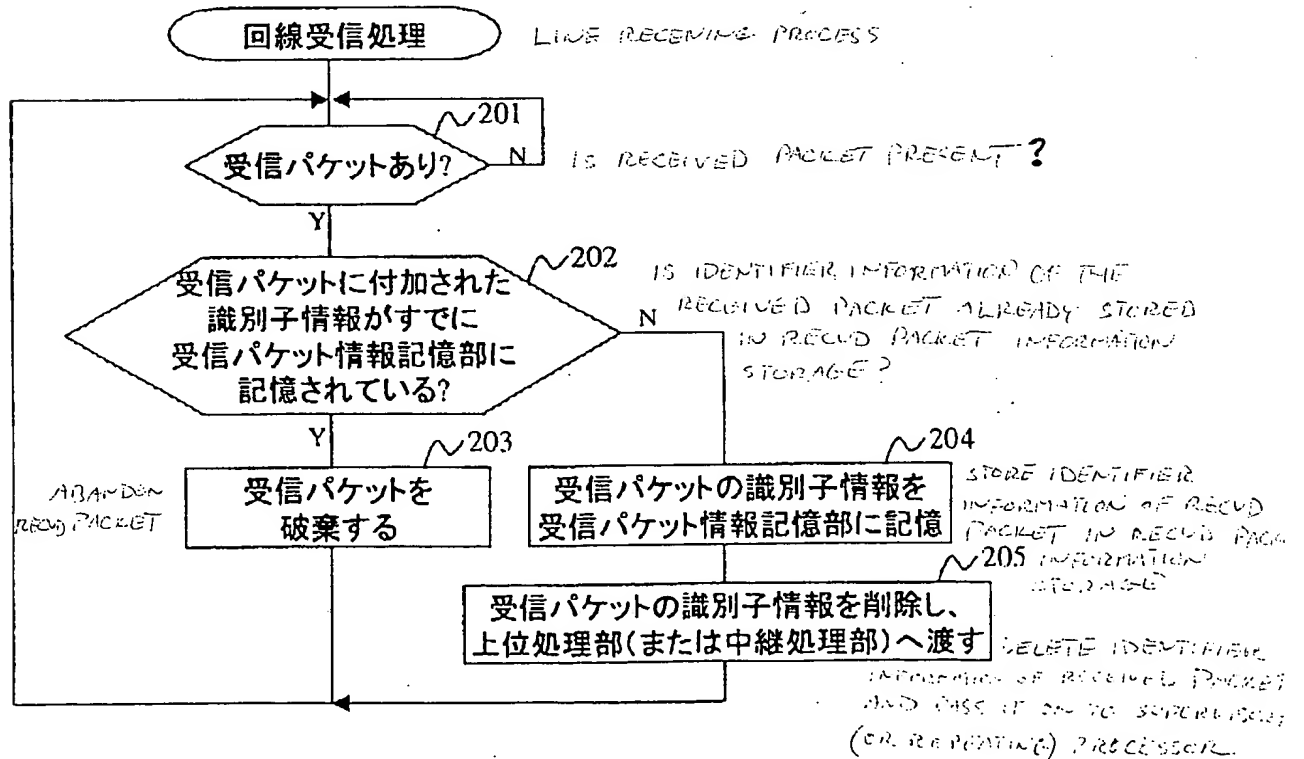
【図 4】

【図4 複数回線送信部フロー】



【図 5】

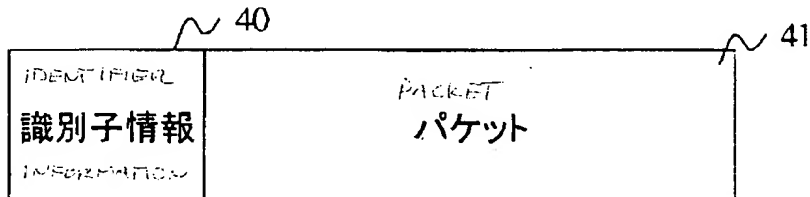
【図5 回線受信部フロー】



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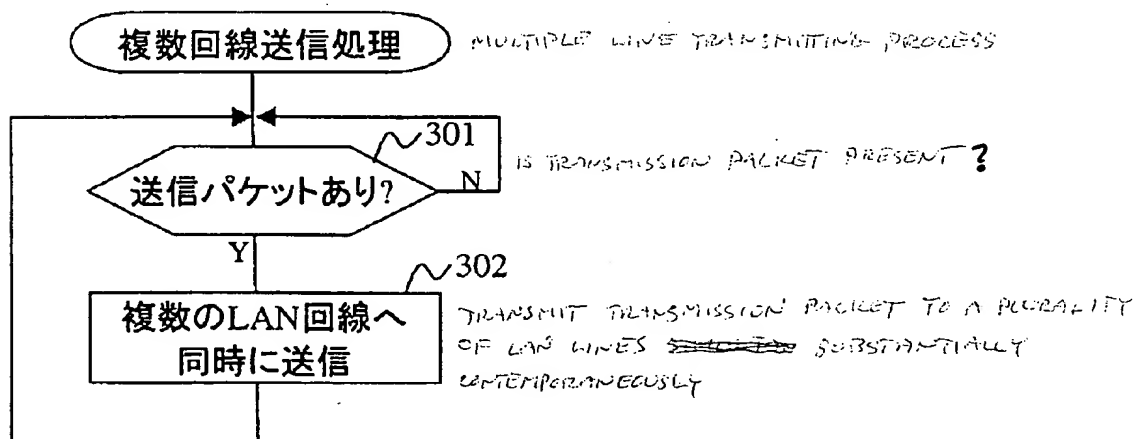
【図6】

【図6 識別子情報の付加したパケット構成例】



【図7】

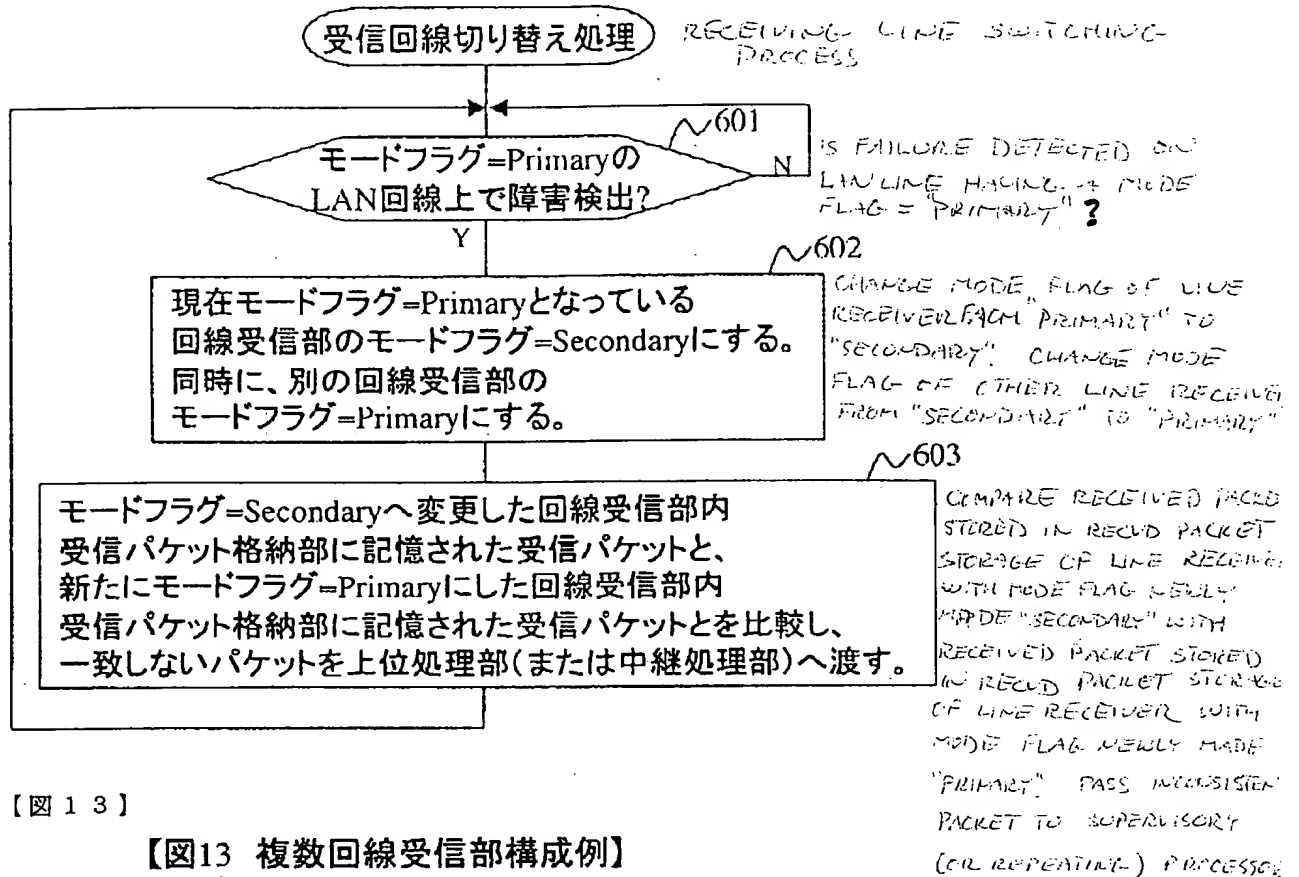
【図7 複数回線送信部フロー】



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【図12】

【図12 受信回線切り替え部フロー】



【図13】

【図13 複数回線受信部構成例】

